**11/January/2015 Jubilee - 'How to draw close to the Fire'**

The past 6 weeks or so we have been discussing the importance of a closer, more intimate relationship with Jesus. Our hearts are burning to do something for the Lord and we are willing to step out and obey Him - but there are so many needs and there is so much to do. So where should we start and how should we do it?

Here are 10 ways in which we can determine to move forward with the Lord as a Jesus revolutionary - a Jesus centered, Spirit empowered, Word-based, world changer - so take these simple commitments before the Lord, perhaps one at a time over a period of weeks, and implement them on a regular basis, building one upon another. I believe you will see God do some amazing things in and through you as you determine to be a vessel of usefulness and fruitfulness in His Kingdom. In our lives, we will experience God's sovereignty, but there still remains our responsibility to make right decisions and choices out of obedience to His Word. We do not mature and grow in God by accident - it is through making deliberate wise decisions every day. We will be trusted with more responsibility as we take care of the small things.

1) I will spend quality time with God every day in prayer and in reading the Word. Do you have a quiet time and place set aside for this purpose? Do you have a prayer list? Self-discipline is the way ahead, not laziness.

2) I will choose to walk daily in purity of heart and integrity of life in my thoughts, my words and in my actions. 'I will covenant with my eyes not to think evil thoughts.' I will bring into subjection (control) my mind and not allow it to travel down evil pathways. It takes concentrated effort, but it gets easier and easier until it is finally a reflex action that just happens! Notice the sequence: when you control your mind, your words are controlled and then good actions are the result

3) I will not be ashamed of Jesus but will boldly confess Him as my Lord and Savior every chance I get - I will look for opportunities to tell of His love and forgiveness.

4) I am committed to the Great Commission - winning the lost, restoring the backslidden, and making disciples - here at home and abroad - teaching and training the believers to do the work of the ministry.

5) I will seek to be a peacemaker and an ambassador of reconciliation, forgiving those who have offended or wronged me, and seeking forgiveness from those whom I may have offended. I will live humbly - thinking of myself less and of others more.

6) I will walk in love towards those who despise and reject me, overcoming evil with good; hostility with kindness. I will pray for those who despitefully use me.

7) I will pursue fellowship with like-minded brothers and sisters and will not separate myself from the body. I recognize that it is through relationships with others that I will grow and mature.

8) I will be involved with some sort of ministry of mercy, through serving and giving, helping to relieve human suffering in a tangible way.

9) I will stand for righteousness and justice in my city, speaking the truth in love regardless of personal cost or consequence. If you don't stand for something you stand for nothing.

10) I will seek for the fullness of all the Spirit has for me, availing myself of everything God has for His people today. (nothing extra-Biblical)

As we apply ourselves to these basic tenets of the faith, I believe we will find God's exact will for each of our lives, and we will be the useful and fruitful vessels that God desires us to be. 'Be all that you can be, in His army!'

**Philippians 3:13,14** 'Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended (I am still not all that I should be); but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' Don't get stuck in the guilt of the past, but concentrate on your relationship with Him now. Move on to a life of faith and obedience - look forward with hope in Christ and His ability.